

Remarks

In the Final Office action mailed December 16, 2005; claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pasotti et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,232,753). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasotti et al. In view of Stevens (U.S. Pat. No. 4,942,312). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasotti et al. In view of Tanase (U.S. Pat. No. 6,462,526). Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant amends claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4 together with intervening claim 3. Claims 3 and 4, now redundant, are cancelled. This should place claims 1 and 2 into condition for allowance.

Claims 5-7 are allowed.

Claims 8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasotti et al. In view of Tanase. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasotti et al. and Tanase in view of Yokomizo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,400,211). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasotti et al. in view of Tanase and further in view of Stevens and Nakajima (U.S. Pat. No. 6,686,728).

Applicant cancels independent claim 8 together with dependent claims 10-12. Applicant amends dependent claims 9, 13, and 14 and change their dependency to that of allowed claim 5. In order to accommodate this change in dependency, the terminology identifying certain elements is amended to correspond to that used in claim 5: "first load" to "low current load", "second current driver" to "MOS transistor associated with the second input terminal", "said top" to "connected to the feedback path". Accordingly, claims 9 and

13-15 should now be in condition for allowance along with the allowed claims 5-7.

Finally, Applicant cancels the claims 16-20 withdrawn from consideration, subject to the continued right to representing these claims in a divisional application.

Conclusion

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in this case. All remaining claims, as amended, should now be in condition for allowance. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the amendment, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450.

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Respectfully submitted,

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